

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(currently amended)** A disposable diaper, comprising:
a diaper body having a top sheet, a back sheet, and an absorbent body enclosed between said top sheet and said back sheet;
a pair of side flaps fixed to said diaper body at ~~a pair of side flap fixing parts and a pair of joint parts~~; and
a pair of fasteners; [[,]]
wherein said diaper body further has a pair of ~~parallel~~ side edges ~~end parts~~ extending in a longitudinal direction of said diaper body, wherein each [[of]] said edge ~~end part~~ has a first end [[part]] and [[a]] an opposite, second end ~~part which is located at an opposite side of said first end part~~;
~~wherein said side flap fixing parts and joint parts are located at said first end part of said disposable diaper, and wherein said side flap fixing parts are located on a side inner toward said diaper body than said joint parts along the width direction of said diaper body; and~~
wherein each [[of]] said side flap extends in a width direction of said diaper body and has an inner end [[part]] being disposed inboard of a respective one of said side edges of ~~on an inner side to~~ said diaper body ~~along the width direction of said diaper body~~ and an outer end [[part]] being disposed outboard of the respective side edge of ~~on an outer side to~~ said diaper body ~~along the width direction of said diaper body~~, and each of said fasteners is fixed to said outer end [[part]] of [[each]] one of said side [[flap]] flaps; and
wherein each said side flap is fixed to said diaper body at a fixing part and a joint part, said

fixing part being arranged adjacent and along an inner edge of the inner end of the respective side flap, the joint part being arranged adjacent and along the respective side edge of the diaper body, and said fixing part being spaced, in the width direction of said diaper body, from said joint part by a bonding-free region.

2. (canceled)

3. **(currently amended)** The disposable diaper according to ~~Claim 1~~ claim 11, wherein ~~said joint part comprises a first joint part located at an upper part of said inner end part of said side flap and a second joint part located at a lower part of said inner end part of said side flap, and wherein~~ said first joint part and said second joint part have a same length, as measured in the longitudinal direction.

4. **(currently amended)** The disposable diaper according to ~~[[Claim]]~~ claim 1, wherein each said side flap comprises an elastic sheet and a non-woven fabric.

5. **(currently amended)** The disposable diaper according to ~~[[Claim]]~~ claim 1, wherein each said fastener is positioned at a substantial center, as seen in the ~~vertical~~ longitudinal direction, of the outer end ~~[[part]]~~ of ~~[[said]]~~ the respective side flap.

6. (canceled)

7. **(currently amended)** The disposable diaper according to ~~[[Claim]]~~ claim 1, wherein each said side flap is fixed to said diaper body at said joint part and said side flap fixing part are joined and fixed by a thermal method.

8. **(currently amended)** The disposable diaper according to ~~[[Claim]]~~ claim 1,

wherein each said fastener comprises a fastening member and a ~~fastening~~ tape substrate.

9. **(currently amended)** The disposable diaper according to ~~Claim 1~~ claim 11, wherein ~~said joint part comprises a first joint part located at an upper part of said inner end part of said side flap and a second joint part located at a lower part of said inner end part of said side flap, and wherein~~ a length of said first joint part, as measured in the longitudinal direction, is shorter than that a length of said second joint part.

10. **(currently amended)** The disposable diaper according to ~~Claim 1~~ claim 11, wherein ~~said joint part comprises a first joint part located at an upper part of said inner end part of said side flap and a second joint part located at a lower part of said inner end part of said side flap, and wherein~~ a length of said first joint part, as measured in the longitudinal direction, is longer than that a length of said second joint part.

11. **(currently amended)** The disposable diaper according to claim ~~any one of Claim 1~~, wherein said joint part comprises:

a first joint part located at an upper part of said inner end ~~[[part]]~~ of ~~[[said]]~~ the respective side flap; and

a second joint part located at a lower part of said inner end ~~[[part]]~~ of ~~[[said]]~~ the respective side flap, said lower part being spaced in the longitudinal direction from the upper part.

12. **(currently amended)** The disposable diaper according to ~~[[Claim]]~~ claim 1, wherein each said side flap comprises an elastic sheet.

13. **(currently amended)** The disposable diaper according to ~~[[Claim]]~~ claim 4, wherein said non-woven fabric is elastic.

14. (canceled)

15. **(currently amended)** A method ~~[[for]]~~ of adjusting fitting of a disposable diaper about fitness around a waist and legs of a wearer when ~~[[a]]~~ the disposable diaper is worn, ~~by adjusting a length of a first joint part located at a side edge upper end area of a side flap and a second joint part located at a side edge lower end of the side flap, in~~ the disposable diaper comprising a diaper body and a side flap fixed to said diaper body;

wherein an inner end ~~[[part]]~~ of the side flap is fixed to an inner portion ~~end-part~~ of the diaper body, and either or both of ~~[[the]]~~ a side edge upper end area and ~~[[the]]~~ a side edge lower end area of the side flap are joined to the diaper body at an outer portion ~~end-part from said inner end-part~~ of the diaper body, said outer portion being spaced in a width direction of said diaper body from the inner portion;

said method comprising:

adjusting a length of a first joint part at which the side edge upper end area of the side flap is joined to the outer portion of the diaper body, and a second joint part at which the side edge lower end of the side flap is joined to the outer portion of the diaper body.

16. **(currently amended)** A method ~~[[for]]~~ of adjusting fitting of a disposable diaper about fitness around a waist and legs of a wearer when ~~[[a]]~~ the disposable diaper is worn, ~~by adjusting a width of a first joint part located at a side edge upper end area of a side flap and a second joint part located at a side edge lower end of the side flap, in~~ the disposable diaper comprising a diaper body and a side flap fixed to said diaper body;

wherein an inner end ~~[[part]]~~ of the side flap is fixed to an inner portion ~~end-part~~ of the diaper body, and either or both of ~~[[the]]~~ a side edge upper end area and ~~[[the]]~~ a side edge lower end area of the side flap are joined to the diaper body at an outer portion ~~end-part from said inner end-part~~ of the diaper body, said outer portion being spaced in a width direction of said diaper body from the inner portion;

said method comprising:

adjusting a width of a first joint part at which the side edge upper end area of the side flap is joined to the outer portion of the diaper body, and a second joint part at which the side edge lower end of the side flap is joined to the outer portion of the diaper body.

17. **(currently amended)** A method ~~[[for]]~~ of adjusting fitting of a disposable diaper about fitness around a waist and legs of a wearer when [[a]] the disposable diaper is worn, by adjusting respective positions to which a first joint part located at a side edge upper end area of a side flap and a second joint part located at a side edge lower end of the side flap are fixed, in the disposable diaper comprising a diaper body and a side flap fixed to said diaper body;

wherein an inner end ~~[[part]]~~ of the side flap is fixed to an inner portion ~~end part~~ of the diaper body, and either or both of [[the]] a side edge upper end area and [[the]] a side edge lower end area of the side flap are joined to the diaper body at an outer portion ~~end part from said inner end part of the diaper body, said outer portion being spaced in a width direction of said diaper body from the inner portion;~~

said method comprising:

adjusting respective positions of a first joint part at which the side edge upper end area of the side flap is joined to the outer portion of the diaper body, and a second joint part at which the side edge lower end of the side flap is joined to the outer portion of the diaper body.

18. **(new)** The disposable diaper according to claim 1, wherein, in said bonding-free region, the respective side flap is free of direct attachment to said diaper body.

19. **(new)** The disposable diaper according to claim 11, wherein one of said first and second joint parts is closer to the respective side edge of the diaper body than the other.

20. **(new)** The disposable diaper according to claim 1, wherein

said fixing part extends continuously along substantially an entire length, as measured in the longitudinal direction, of said inner edge of the inner end of the respective side flap, and
a length, as measured in the longitudinal direction, of said joint part is shorter than half of that of said fixing part.

21. **(new)** The disposable diaper according to claim 20, wherein each said side flap is fixed to said diaper body at only one said fixing part and only one said joint part.

22. **(new)** The disposable diaper according to claim 1, further comprising
leg elastic elements extending in the longitudinal direction and along the side edges of said diaper body;
wherein the joint part of each said side flap overlaps at least one of said leg elastic elements.

23. **(new)** The disposable diaper according to claim 1, further comprising
leg elastic elements extending in the longitudinal direction and along the side edges of said diaper body;
wherein the joint part of each said side flap is located on an imaginary extension of at least one of said leg elastic elements but does not overlap any of said leg elastic elements.